

The Courage to Encourage

Connecting to the Topic

What affects our ability to encourage?

- Thinking we have to give answers.
- Thinking we have none of the answers.

Connecting With God

The Bible talks about encouragement in many places. Here are just a few verses to consider; take turns reading these aloud in your group.

“Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11)

“When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.” (Romans 1:12)

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Ephesians 4:29)

“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Discuss with your group:

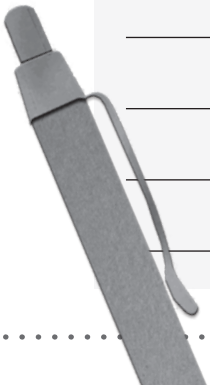
- Which of these verses sort of “jumps out” to you, and why?

- Why do you think encouraging one another is such an important part of living the life God desires for us?

- How can these verses help you grow in putting the “en” (the action) into *encourage*—both in giving and receiving encouragement?

Connecting to My Life

SAMPLE



Additional Thoughts on Encouragement

This week reread the verses from this session. Read them as often as you like, thinking about how these words touch your heart.

Think about the people who have encouraged you in the past few weeks. Write their names below. Perhaps you'd like to write a note or e-mail of thanks to one of them. Even if you don't have time for that, thank God for the people of encouragement he has put in your life, and ask God to help you have more courage to encourage others!

SAMPLE
